

October 7, 1998

**MANDATORY IMPLEMENTATION OF VERSION 5.3
SCHEDULING PATCH #SD*5.3*152**

1. PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive informs facilities that Scheduling Patch #SD*5.3*152 will be released by October 15, 1998. This scheduling patch will enable a data extract to be run at each facility and will identify a random sample of patients who will be involved in a national preventive medicine services survey.

2. BACKGROUND

a. The National Center for Health Promotion (NCHP) and Disease Prevention has responsibility for monitoring and encouraging the provision, evaluation and improvement of preventive medicine services for veterans and the promotion of clinical, research and education activities with respect to such services. In accordance with Public Law 102-585, dated November 4, 1992, the staff of the NCHP is responsible for preparation of an annual report to Congress documenting Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) activities in the field of health promotion and disease prevention.

b. In order to comply, it is necessary to seek information directly from veterans registered with VA clinics concerning their receipt of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention services from either VA or outside sources. A mailed survey is the optimal means for obtaining these data and the NCHP provides a system for accomplishing this task. This software will extract the necessary random sample of patients from all facilities. All surveys will be returned directly to the NCHP for processing.

3. POLICY: It is VHA policy to have this patch installed and run at all sites no later than October 28, 1998.

4. ACTION: Each facility must ensure that the software is installed into the facility computer system and run by October 28, 1998. Additional instructions will be provided when the software is released. Questions about installation of the software should be referred to Customer Service at the IRM Field Offices. Inquiries may be made to David Brown at the National Center for Health Promotion, 919-416-5880 (x232).

5. REFERENCES: None.

6. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY: National Center for Health Promotion, Durham VA Medical Center (NCHP), is responsible for the content of this Directive.

THIS VHA DIRECTIVE EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 1998

VHA DIRECTIVE 98-044
October 7, 1998

7. RESCISSION: This Directive will expire on December 31, 1998.

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Acting Under Secretary for Health

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